

'Truth Dollars' For Junkets?

By FULTON LEWIS, Jr.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13. — The Crusade for Freedom is a fund-raising organization, the show-window of which is an array of respected names such as Harlow Curtice, Ben Fairless, Roy Larsen, Frank Stanton and Arthur Page. Whether they ever actually attend any board meetings, I would be inclined to doubt. Most of the work seems to be done by a young man named Jack Patterson who is listed as "Executive Vice-President."

The organization is tax-exempt and contributions to it are deductible for income tax purposes. Coming up shortly is a nationwide campaign on a door-to-door basis by newsboys, collecting so-called "truth dollars" to spread the word of freedom behind the Iron Curtain.

It is more than passing strange, therefore, that the Crusade makes no public financial report, and neither does the organization for which it collects the contributions, the Free Europe Committee. A citizen



BEN FAIRLESS
Show-window piece.

and taxpayer is not permitted to know how much either organization takes in, or how much the Free Europe Committee spends.

I find, however, that a sizable amount of the collections by the Crusade go for an annual October junket to Munich, Berlin, and other Western European cities where FEC operations are under way, to "inspect" the activities. On the way home, the party stops for four days of sightseeing in Paris.

THIS YEAR, for example, there were 56 individuals in the party, with transportation and all expenses paid, all of which came from the "Truth Dollar" contributions. I doubt that the people who gave them did so with any such purpose in mind.

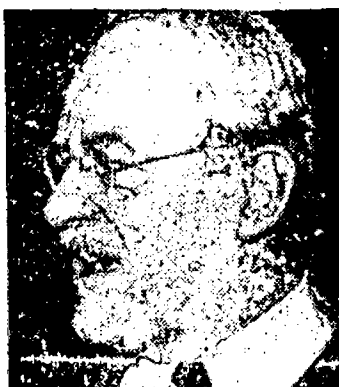
The reason given for the financial secrecy is that "the enemy" could then know the scope of their operations and be better able to counter them. The real reason is that the C. I. A. — Allen Dulles' cloak-and-dagger game, the Central Intelligence Agency — is secretly contributing about three-fourths of the money that the Free Europe projects spend, but Dulles doesn't want it known.

Every intelligence organization behind and outside of the Iron Curtain knows the truth, but Mr. Dulles won't tell the American taxpayers. Even Congress cannot find out. That seems odd, too.

The explanation of the junkets is that they are for the people who are going to head the Crusade's fund-raising campaign for the year.

This year's list includes Karl E. Feller, president of the AFL-CIO United Brewery Workers of America, with headquarters in

CAPITAL REPORT



ALLEN DULLES

He's got a secret.

Cincinnati, Ohio; William P. Crowell, president of the Key Club International, of Dallas, Tex., and Mrs. Ruby Godbey, national president of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

IT WOULD SEEM to me that these individuals are entirely capable of paying their own way, if an "inspection tour" is really necessary in order to solicit contributions to a tax-exempt cause.

The same would seem to be true of William G. Brumder, chairman of the board of the First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee, and Robert D. Jackson, president of the Pilgrim Life Insurance Co. of Indianapolis. And these are only a few.

In effect, of course, the junketing is being paid for by the great American taxpayer, because whatever is not contributed to the Free Europe Committee by Crusade for Freedom, has to be made up by Allen Dulles from the C.I.A.

And C.I.A. is ~~immune~~ immune. It is immune to any audit such as other agencies of government are subjected to. It is immune to any investigation or inquiry by any Congressional committee.

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